



E-Newsletter www.house.gov/simpson September 23, 2003



Congressman Simpson shakes hands with President Bush during a meeting at the White House.

Message from Mike

Congress is back in session after surviving hurricane Isabel. Because of the approaching storm, the House and Senate finished business early and suspended operations on Thursday and Friday. We now have a full week ahead including voting on conference reports and looking at President Bush's supplemental funding request for Iraq.

What's Up This Week

The House is scheduled to vote on the following bills:

Tuesday

H.R. 1209 - To extend the authority for the construction of a memorial to Martin Luther King, Jr., in the District of Columbia.

H.Con.Res. 21 - Commemorating the Bicentennial of the Louisiana Purchase.

H.Res. 362 - Recognizing the importance and contributions of sportsmen to American society, supporting the traditions and values of sportsmen, and recognizing the many economic benefits associated with outdoor sporting activities.

Wednesday/Thursday

H.R. 2557 - Water Resources Development Act of 2003

H.J.Res. __ - Making Continuing Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2004 (Subject to a rule, bill number has not been released.)

Friday

On Friday, the House will not be in session.

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Weekly Website

Check out the government's new website to help students find jobs, internships and apprenticeships:

<http://www.studentjobs.gov/e-scholar.asp>

Federal Facts

According to the Census Bureau, there are 73.2 million students enrolled in school from pre-school to college.

Idaho History Quiz

What is Idaho's state insect?

Answer this question correctly and you'll be featured in next week's e-newsletter!

Congratulations to Mark Grimes of Buhl, Idaho who correctly answered that the Mountain Bluebird is Idaho's state bird.

Quote of the Week

"The values and the valor of those Continental soldiers helped to release the freedom this blessed nation now enjoys. The vigilance and training of today's soldiers keep that freedom secure. Yes, meeting the defense budget calls for sacrificing other ways we might like to spend those funds. But this is a small sacrifice compared to that of America's colonial citizens. They paid with their blood and long years of hardship."

--Ronald Reagan

Meet New Simpson Staffers

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Idaho Congressman Mike Simpson is pleased to announce three new employees in his Washington, D.C. and Boise offices and the addition of a community development coordinator in the Twin Falls office.

Idaho Falls native Megan Milam will serve as Simpson's Washington, D.C. scheduler and legislative assistant – covering veterans, defense, foreign affairs and telecommunications issues. Milam recently graduated from Princeton University with a degree in political science and a minor in French.

Amy Benton, originally from Hood River, Ore., is a legislative correspondent in Simpson's Washington, D.C. office and will also handle tours of the U.S. Capitol and flag requests. Benton graduated from Whitman College in Walla Walla, Wash. with a Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology.

Julie Harwood is now a staff assistant in Simpson's Boise office. Harwood brings a wealth of experience to the office. She worked for former U.S. Senator Jim McClure and for Senator Dirk Kempthorne for six years and most recently as Kempthorne's scheduler in the Idaho Governor's office. Harwood is a native Idahoan and a graduate of the University of Idaho.

Linda Culver of Simpson's Twin Falls office is now the Community Development Coordinator. Culver will travel Idaho's Second Congressional District training groups and communities on grant research and writing, as well as finding funding sources. Culver will also continue her duties as Simpson's US military Academy nominations coordinator and assist constituents through federal casework.

Charity Tax Bill Passes House Overwhelmingly

Idaho Congressmen Mike Simpson and C.L. “Butch” Otter voted to make it easier to lend a helping hand by supporting a plan to provide incentives for millions of Americans to make contributions to charities. H.R. 7, the “Charitable Giving Act of 2003,” passed the House of Representatives with a bipartisan vote of 408 to 13.

The “Charitable Giving Act” will:

Provide a new tax deduction for charitable donations. Approximately two-thirds of tax returns filed do not claim itemized deductions, leaving many taxpayers unable to deduct their charitable contributions. The tax code should provide this tax benefit to all taxpayers, not just those who itemize.

Encourage new charitable giving. Data shows that taxpayers who receive a deduction for charitable contributions give more than those who do not receive a deduction.

Ensure charitable donations from individual retirement accounts are tax-free. It is estimated that Americans have saved approximately \$2.3 trillion in IRAs. The plan allows a portion of these funds to be contributed to charity today without incurring a negative income tax.

Increase charitable contributions from corporations and other businesses. The package increases the cap on corporate charitable contributions from 10 to 20 percent of modified taxable income; enhances deductions for donations of food inventory to all types of businesses; and enables corporations to make charitable contributions of scientific equipment for research and computer technology.

House Votes to Keep Internet Tax Free

Idaho Congressmen Mike Simpson and C.L. “Butch” Otter voted on Wednesday for a consumer-friendly, high-tech legislative plan that will extend the tax-free status of Internet e-commerce. The “Internet Tax Nondiscrimination Act,” H.R. 49, was approved in the House of Representatives on a voice vote.

The “Internet Tax Nondiscrimination Act” will:

Increase investment in new IT developments. Despite the economic slowdown, IT industries have continued to expand investment. Keeping e-commerce tax-free will continue spurring this investment.

Accelerate e-commerce sales. In 2000, Internet sales totaled \$28 billion. By 2001, this number had climbed to over \$35 billion. In the third-quarter of 2002 alone, Internet sales reached more than \$10 billion. Slapping a tax on these sales will only inhibit future growth.

Homeland Security

In an effort to prepare all Americans, the Department of Homeland Security has created <http://www.ready.gov>. To join in this effort, Congressman Simpson's e-newsletter will feature weekly topics designed to keep Americans safe. Topics include: food and water, clean air, first aid and supply checklists. Last week's topic was about the importance of clean air. Today's topic is remembering the special needs of your family in an emergency.

Remember the special needs of your family members. **Infants**, the **elderly** and **persons with disabilities** need the same planning as everyone else, and sometimes a little more, to be prepared for a terrorist attack.

For Baby:

- Bottles and formula
- Diapers
- Powdered milk
- Medications
- Moist towelettes
- Diaper rash ointment

For Adults:

- Ask your doctor about storing prescription medications such as heart and high blood pressure medication, insulin and other prescription drugs.
- Denture needs
- Contact lenses and supplies
- Extra eye glasses

For Seniors:

- Plan how you will evacuate or signal for help.
- Plan emergency procedures with home health care agencies or workers.
- Tell others where you keep your emergency supplies.
- Teach others how to operate necessary equipment.
- Label equipment like wheelchairs, canes or walkers.

Additional supplies for Seniors:

- List of prescription medications including dosage in your supply kits. Include any allergies.
- Extra eyeglasses and hearing-aid batteries.
- Extra wheelchair batteries or other special equipment in your supply kit.
- A list of the style and serial numbers of medical devices such as pacemakers in your emergency supply kits.
- Copies of medical insurance and Medicare cards.
- List of doctors and emergency contacts.

For People with Disabilities:

- Create a support network to help in an emergency.
- Tell these people where you keep your emergency supplies.
- Give one member of your support network a key to your house or apartment.
- Contact your city or county government's emergency information management office. Many local offices keep lists of people with disabilities so they can be located quickly in a sudden emergency.



Mike recently met with Marsha Evans, CEO for the American Red Cross. For more information on emergency preparedness, please visit the Red Cross website at <http://www.redcross.org>. Photo by Ken Ockler.